

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-15 OIC-04 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AEC-11 H-03

NSC-10 SS-15 DRC-01 /163 W

----- 056008

P R 091935Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2034

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3346

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T USNATO 4811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: ITALIAN OPENING STATEMENT

VIENNA FOR US MBFR DELEGATION

BEGIN SUMMARY: TEXT OF ITALIAN OPENING STATEMENT
PROVISIONALLY APPROVED BY AD HOC GROUP ON OCTOBER 9
FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY. BEGIN TEXT:

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MBFR OPENS
THE WAY TO A PARTICULARLY DELICATE AND - WE HOPE -
FRUITFUL PHASE IN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

WE WISH THE RESULTS OF THIS DIALOGUE TO BE POSITIVE
ONES IN THE WAY OF POLITICAL DETENTE AND BETTER MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING.

THE REGION OF CENTRAL EUROPE IS THE ONE IN WHICH
THE CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS AND ARMAMENTS IS THE HIGHEST
DURING TIMES OF PEACE. THE REDUCTION OF FORCES AND
SECRET

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TENSIONS AT A LOWER LEVEL OF COSTS AND RISKS IN THAT
REGION IS THEREFORE THE MAIN OBJECTIVE TOWARDS
WHICH WE MUST AIM: BUT THAT OBJECTIVE CANNOT BE
REACHED WITHOUT ENSURING THAT CONDITIONS OF UNDIMINISHED

SECURITY ARE RECIPROCALLY MET.

FOR THE REALIZATION OF THAT ESSENTIAL CONDITION, ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND MILITARY ASYMMETRIES EXISTING BETWEEN THE FORCES OF THE TWO ALLIANCES. AT THE SAME TIME THE REDUCTION OF THE MILITARY FORCES CONFRONTING EACH OTHER IN CENTRAL EUROPE SHOULD NOT RESULT IN A TRANSFER OF THOSE FORCES TOWARDS OTHER REGIONS AND IN A SUBSEQUENT INCREASED PRESSURE UPON THE FLANK COUNTRIES.

ITALY, AS A SOUTHERN FLANK COUNTRY, OUTSIDE ANY POSSIBLE AREA OF REDUCTION REFERRED TO CENTRAL EUROPE, IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE REALIZATION OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL REDUCE THE CONFRONTATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE SITUATION IN OTHER REGIONS OF OUR CONTINENT.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE GLOBAL APPROACH OF AN AGREEMENT AIMING AT THE MAINTENANCE, AT NEW LEVELS OF FORCES, OF THE SECURITY OF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND IN THE STRENGTHENING- IN A NEW INTERRELATIONSHIP- OF THE STILL DELICATE SECURITY SITUATION BETWEEN MILITARY ALLIANCES WHICH HAS THUS FAR PERMITTED THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE REDUCTION OF FORCES IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION WILL PROVE TO BE VERY DIFFICULT AND ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY NOT WITHOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. IN OUR VIEW, THEIR SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLITICAL CLIMATE OF IMPROVED RELATIONS, CONCRETE MEASURES OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING, AND THE POLITICAL AND MORAL ENGAGEMENT NOT TO CIRCUMVENT THE AGREEMENT. WE MUST ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS
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BUT ALSO THE PLITICAL ONES.

THE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT REDUCTION OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE CONCERN NOT ONLY NATIONAL AND GENERAL EUROPEAN INTERESTS; THEY ALSO CONCERN MORE SPECIFIC WESTERN EUROPEAN INTERESTS. THERE ARE, AS A MATTER OF FACT, NOT ONLY SINGLE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN THE NEGOTIATION, BUT ALSO COUNTRIES WHICH BELONG TO A COMMUNITY WHICH TODAY IS STILL ESSENTIALLY AN ECONOMIC ONE BUT WHICH TENDS TO BECOME MORE AND MORE A POLITICAL COMMUNITY.

WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY MEASURE WHICH COULD IN

ANY WAS CONSTRAIN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION,
DISCRIMINATING AMONG FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION TO WHICH WE ARE AIMING.

THE PROCEDURAL WORK WE HAVE ALREADY DONE IN VIENNA
IN THE EXPLORATORY PHASE WILL CERTAINLY BE HELPFUL IN
SOLVING SOME OF OUR PROBLEMS. WE DO HOPE THAT THE
GOOD WILL OF ALL THE PARTIES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH
BEGIN TODAY WILL HELP TO FIND A FORMULA OF COMMON
INTEREST IN THE WAY OF BETTER RELATIONS IN THE NEW
ATMOSPHERE OF IMPROVED PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL
SECURITY IN EUROPE FOR WHICH WE ARE ALSO ACTIVELY
WORKING IN GENEVA AND WILL WORK LATER ON IN HELSINKI.
END TEXT
RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04811
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqcepcpc.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIAIONS: ITALIAN OPENING STATEMENT
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005